

# Father's Day

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[ 0 : 0 0 ] Well, if we could, with the Lord's help and the Lord's enabling this morning, if we could turn back to that portion of Scripture that we read, the book of Psalms, Psalm 103.

Psalm 103. And we're going to read again at verse 12. I'll read at verse 11.

Psalm 103 at verse 11. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust.

But particularly the words of verse 13. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him.

[ 1 : 0 6 ] Now, as you know, for a Christian, every Sunday is the Lord's Day. Every Sunday is the Lord's Day. But this particular Sunday, it's known to many, whether in church today or out with church, everybody knows it as Father's Day.

And I suppose it's good to acknowledge and appreciate fathers, because as the Bible tells us, the Lord has given us our fathers. And as David reminds us here in Psalm 103, he says that the Lord is a father.

The Lord is a father. Of course, Father's Day is not meant to compete with Mother's Day. It's actually meant to complement Mother's Day. In fact, Mother's Day and Father's Day, they both originated from the same place, and round about the same century, the same year even.

And, you know, it'll be no surprise to you to learn that Mother's Day and Father's Day, it was copied and carried over from America. Because in 1907, the American state of West Virginia, that was when it was the first Mother's Day service.

So in 1907, there was the first Mother's Day service. It was held in church to celebrate how special mothers are in our lives. Then a year later, in 1908, the first Father's Day service was held again in church in order to acknowledge and appreciate fathers.

[ 2 : 3 5 ] But what's interesting is that the first Father's Day service was introduced following one of the most devastating mining disasters in history. It was when two coal mines exploded and had killed nearly 500 miners.

And then following that devastating disaster in West Virginia, it was the local minister's daughter. She was actually called Grace, Grace Clayton. And she suggested to her father, who was the minister, to have a Father's Day service in order to give thanks to God for fathers, but especially for those who had been killed in the mines.

And so began the history of Father's Day. But even though today is a special day to celebrate fathers, you could say that like Christmas and like New Year's Day, Father's Day is happy for some, but heartbreaking for others.

Father's Day is happy for some, but heartbreaking for others. For many people, Father's Day is an opportunity to demonstrate to their dad how much they love them.

And it's a happy occasion to acknowledge and appreciate your father. Father's Day is happy for some, but heartbreaking for others. And it's heartbreaking because it's on a day like today that many people, they remember the father that they loved and the father that they lost.

[ 4 : 0 2 ] And Father's Day, it's sometimes only a painful reminder of the empty place and the empty space in their home and in their family. And you know, that's why we came to this psalm this morning, because we should always be mindful of those who have lost their father, who have loved and lost their father.

That Father's Day is happy for some, but heartbreaking for others. And it's heartbreaking for others, not just because they loved and lost their father, but it's heartbreaking for others because there are some, well, they don't live with their father.

There are some people who don't even know their father. There are some who would love to be a father. There are some who were abused by their father. There are others who were also abandoned by their father.

And you know, my friend, in our sad and sin-filled world, there are so many broken homes with broken families and broken relationships, which makes Father's Day happy for some, but heartbreaking for others.

And yet when we come to the Bible, we see that the God of the Bible, He reveals Himself to us as a father. And He reveals Himself to us as a father so that whatever experience we have of our earthly father, we are called to realize and to recognize that we all today have a Father in heaven.

[ 5 : 23 ] A Father in heaven who loves us and who longs to look after us. Which is why on this Father's Day, I want us to think about our heavenly father.

I want us to think about our heavenly father. And I want us to see that God is a paternal father. He's a providing father. And He's a prayerful father.

God is a paternal father, a providing father, and a prayerful father. So first of all, we see that He's a paternal father. God is a paternal father. It says there in verse 13, As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

For He knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust. And you know, Psalm 103, it's a wonderful psalm that reminds us that the God we worship this morning is a gracious God.

The God we are worshiping this morning is a gracious God. And that's emphasized and explained to us from the very outset of Psalm 103. Because King David, who's the author of this psalm, he praises and thanks the Lord for all of his abundant blessings.

[ 6 : 30 ] In fact, David begins by blessing the Lord. That's what we see in verse 1. He says, So David, King David, he begins by acknowledging and appreciating that the Lord has done all these things for him.

And notice, you see that David there, he depicts and describes our gracious God as the Lord. That's what he says, bless the Lord.

It's the title of a greater king than King David. It's the title of the covenant king. Because whenever we see the title Lord in capital letters, we should immediately stop and think this refers to the covenant king.

It refers to the Lord, the one who keeps covenant. He is the Lord, the one who keeps covenant. The one who makes promises to us and keeps his promises.

He is the one who is trustworthy and true. He's the one who is sure and steadfast. He's the Lord who is loyal and loving towards us. He's the one who is faithful and will never forsake you.

[ 7 : 40 ] He's the Lord. That's what David is saying. Bless the Lord, the covenant king, the one who keeps covenant. But you know what I love about the way David writes this psalm is that he shows us here and he stresses to us that the covenant promises of the Lord, this covenant king, they are all personal.

They're all personal promises. They're all promises to us personally. And we have to see that because look at verse 2. He says, Don't forget this, he says.

Remember this. Remember what he does. He is one who forgives all your iniquity. That's very personal. All your iniquity. Who heals all your diseases.

Who redeems your life from the pit. Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy. Who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

It's all personal promises. Personal promises. David begins Psalm 103 by blessing the Lord, the covenant king, for all these precious and personal promises.

[ 8 : 48 ] But you know, when you keep going through the psalm, he doesn't stop there. Because he goes on to describe and to depict for us what this covenant king is really like.

You want to know what the Lord is like? David says down in verse 8. He says, The Lord, He is merciful. He is gracious. He's slow to anger. He's very patient.

And He's abounding in steadfast love. Verse 10. He does not deal with us according to our sins. Nor repay us according to our iniquities. Iniquities.

And you know, what David is saying there is that this Lord, the Lord who is the covenant king, He's loving. But He's so loving that the Lord's covenant love is infinite and immeasurable.

And He goes on there in verse 11. It's so infinite and so immeasurable that it reaches as high as the heavens. And it stretches as far as east as distant from the west. It's amazing.

[ 9 : 46 ] He's describing who our king really is. And you know, with this, David, he not only praises the Lord for all His precious promises. He praises the Lord for His personal and paternal love.

He reminds us that the Lord has revealed Himself to us as a paternal father. As a father, verse 13. As a father shows compassion to his children.

So the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him. You know, David there, he uses the illustration of paternal love. The paternal love of an earthly father.

And he does so in order to emphasize and explain to us this personal and paternal love of the Lord. He wants to emphasize and explain the personal and paternal love of the Lord.

But you know, some people, they struggle to comprehend the comparison. Because, well, they don't have a good relationship with their father. But as David describes here, he says, The Lord is not a callous and cruel father.

[ 10 : 57 ] He's not an angry and arrogant father. No, he's a caring and compassionate father. He's a good, good father. And you know, this is what should amaze us coming to this psalm.

Here is David. And he's describing the God of the Bible. The creator of heaven and earth. The one who upholds this world by the word of His power.

The one in whose hand your very breath is. And yet he says, The Lord. The covenant king. He has revealed Himself to us. As a loving Lord.

But not just that. He is a faithful father. But still, sometimes it's hard for us to get our head around that. Because sometimes when we think of God, we think of God as this distant and detached deity. But David says, No, no. He's not like that. He's not distant. He's not detached. Because God has revealed Himself to us on the pages of Scripture. As someone who is personal.

[ 12 : 03 ] And someone who is paternal. He's a personal and paternal father. Yes, we know that God reveals Himself to us as a trinity. Three in one. Three persons in the Godhead.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Same in substance, equal in power and glory. But here in Psalm 103, David emphasizes and explains that the Lord, this covenant king.

The one who makes promises and keeps His promises. He is a caring and compassionate Father. He's not distant. He's not detached.

He's a Father who cares for you. And a Father who shows compassion towards you. And one of the ways in which He keeps His promises. All these promises that He makes.

And all these promises that He keeps. The one of the ways in which He does that is by being a providing Father. He's a providing Father. Which is what we see secondly.

[ 12 : 59 ] So He's a paternal Father. And then secondly, a providing Father. A providing Father. Look at verse 13 again. David says, As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

For He knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust. And so throughout Psalm 103, it's a wonderful psalm about our gracious God. Now David has emphasized and he's explained to us all of these amazing and abundant blessings.

That the Lord is merciful. So He does not give to us what we deserve. He's gracious. He gives to us what we don't deserve. And He's patient with us.

He's loving towards us. He's caring. He's compassionate. He's personal. He's promising. He's paternal. He's a good, good Father. He's a Father that you would like to have.

And as a Father, He's Lord over heaven and earth. He's the covenant King of His people. Which, you know, that's what I always find so comforting.

[ 14 : 06 ] Because one of the covenant promises that are repeated to the Israelites throughout the Old Testament, one of these promises is where the Lord says to His people time and time again, I will be to you a Father.

You will be to me a Son. It's a wonderful personal promise. I will be to you a Father. You will be to me a Son. And you know, my friend, the Lord has always wanted to be our Heavenly Father.

He's always wanted to be our Father. Even since the beginning, when Adam rejected his relationship at the fall, the Lord has always wanted to be our loving Heavenly Father.

Where He has repeated this covenant promise to His people throughout the generations. He has said to them, I will be to you a Father. You shall be to me a Son. I will be to you a Father. You shall be to me a Son. But the Lord, you know, He not only repeated His covenant promises. The Lord revealed His covenant commitment. He revealed His covenant commitment by being a caring and compassionate Father.

[15:16] Because what we see here is that the Lord, He's not only a paternal Father, He's also a providing Father. Where He promises to provide. And listen to what He promises to provide.

He promises to provide comfort and consolation. He's revealed to us in the Bible as the Father of mercies. And the God of all comfort.

Who comforts us in our affliction. Surely you'd want a Father like that. The Father of mercies. The God of all comfort. Who comforts us in our affliction.

We sang earlier in Psalm 68. Where the Lord promises to be a Father to the fatherless. And not just a Father to the fatherless. He promises to be a husband to the widow.

Then in Psalm 27 we were singing. Where we were given of this promise. That in the loss. In our loss. The Lord will be there. To strengthen us. And sustain us.

[16:18] Because David says there in Psalm 27. When my father and my mother leave me. The Lord will take care of me. When my father and my mother leave me.

The Lord will take care of me. My friend. The Lord is a caring and compassionate Father. He's a committed Father. He's a personal Father.

A promising Father. A paternal Father. He's a good, good Father. He's a providing Father. Father for his children. Because as David writes. As a father shows compassion to his children.

So the Lord shows compassion to those. Who fear him. It's a wonderful comparison. Of compassion. And you know.

If there was anyone. Who emphasized and explained. The provisions of our heavenly Father. It was Jesus. Jesus, of course.

[17:14] He knew his Father. Intimately. He's one with the Father. And on a number of occasions. Jesus taught. He taught. That the Lord is a providing Father.

He said it time and time again. We read it in the Sermon on the Mount. When Jesus. He addresses the real and relevant issue of anxiety. Jesus talks about anxiety.

And he says. Do not be anxious about your life. What you will eat. Or what you will drink. Or what you will put on. He says. Is not life more than food.

And the body more than clothing. Then he says. Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow. Nor reap. Nor gather into barns. And yet. Your heavenly Father feeds them.

And then Jesus asks the question. Are you not of more value than they? Are you not of more value than they? And Jesus. He goes on. And which of you.

[18:12] Being anxious. Can add a single hour to your life? And so what's the. What's the application? Jesus says. Don't be anxious. Don't say.

What shall we eat. Or what shall we drink. Or what shall we wear. Because your heavenly Father. knows what you need. So seek first the kingdom of God. And his righteousness.

And all these other things. Will be added unto you. Dear my friend. Your heavenly Father. Views you as valuable. He perceives you.

As precious. He looks at you. And loves you. And longs to look after you. Because he's a good, good Father. He's a providing Father.

And you know Jesus. He always spoke about this. It's amazing the amount of times. He talks about his relationship. With his Father. Because in another sermon.

[19:07] That Jesus preached. And proclaimed. It was the Sermon on the Plain. There's the Sermon on the Mount. And the Sermon on the Plain. And in the Sermon on the Plain. Just like here in Psalm 103. Jesus uses the illustration.

Of an earthly Father. In order to highlight. That personal provision. Of our heavenly Father.

Because Jesus asks the question. He says.

What father among you? What father among you? If his son asks for bread. He gives him a stone. What father among you?

If his son asks for a fish. He will give him a serpent. Or what father among you? Says Jesus. If he asks for an egg. He will give him a scorpion.

And Jesus. He applies the illustration. He says. If you know how to give good gifts. To your children. Then how much more? Will your heavenly Father.

[ 20 : 03 ] Give you the Holy Spirit. To give the Holy Spirit. To those who ask him. And it's those words there. How much more? How much more?

My friend. The Lord wants to give you. Much. Much. More. Much. Much. More than this world can offer you. Your heavenly Father. Want to give you.

Much. Much. More. Because. As David shows us here. The Lord. Is a caring Father. He's a compassionate Father. He's a personal. And promising.

A paternal Father. He's a good. Good. Father. He's a providing. Father. Because. As our Father. This is the amazing thing. Verse 14.

As our Father. He knows our frame. And he remembers that we are dust. As our Father.

[ 20 : 58 ] He knows our frame. And he remembers that we are dust. He knows everything about us. As our Father. And he knows. Even our frame.

That we are frail. And fragile. He knows. That we are weak. He knows that we worry. As our Father. He knows. All about our cares.

And all about our concerns. He knows all our stresses. And he knows all our struggles. Because he knows. And he can see. Our struggles. And our stresses. With sin. And sickness. And suffering.

And sorrow. And separation. My friend. Our heavenly Father. Knows us. Better than we know ourselves. Because he knows our frame.

And he remembers that we are dust. He remembers that from the dust we came. And that one day to the dust we must return.

[ 21 : 55 ] He knows our frame. He remembers we are dust. He remembers that we are cursed creatures in need of a cure. He remembers that we are perishing. And in need of the provision of eternal life.

That is why in John 3 we have that wonderful verse. John 3.16. Where God the Father we are told. He so loved this world.

That he provided the greatest provision. He gave his son. He gave his son. He gifted his son. Not just his son.

But his only begotten son. His one and only son. His unique son. His special son. His incomparable and irreplaceable son. And this is the beauty of it here.

What David is telling us here. Is that God the Father so loved us. He loved. Let's make it personal. He loved you. That he gave you his only begotten son.

[ 22 : 53 ] That you would believe in him. So that you would not perish. And that you would have eternal life. It's the glory of the gospel.

That God the Father has shown such care. And compassion. And concern towards us. That he has given and gifted us.

His son. And it's all because he knows our frame. He remembers that we are dust. He recognizes that we are dust. And he remembers it so much.

That his son became dust too. His son became bone of our bones. And flesh of our flesh. His son took upon himself.

Our feeble and fragile frame. His son Jesus. Became like us. As you know. In order to redeem us. And to rescue us. And his son. As we say so often.

[ 23 : 54 ] He humbled himself. From the crown of glory. Down to the cradle in Bethlehem. All the way down. Down. Down. To the cruel cross. Of Calvary. That's how loving our heavenly father is.

It's no wonder the hymn writer said. How deep the father's love for us. How vast beyond all measure. That he should give his only son.

And make a wretch. His treasure. And so on Father's Day. We see that our heavenly father. He's a paternal father.

He's a providing father. And lastly. He's a prayerful father. A prayerful father. As a father shows compassion to his children.

So the Lord shows compassion to those. Who fear him. You know when using the heading. A prayerful father. I don't mean that our heavenly father is prayerful.

[ 24 : 56 ] But that he hears our prayers. And he hears our prayers. Only because of his son. Jesus Christ. Because Jesus as you know. He's revealed to us in the Bible.

As our advocate. With the father. He's our mediator. Between God. And man. He's our great high priest. Who ever lives. To make intercession for us.  
And you know. There was no one more prayerful. In this world. Than Jesus. Jesus had this prayerful relationship. With his heavenly father. Always praying. Constantly in communion. With his father in heaven. Whether he's praying. Long prayers. All night. Or short prayers. Throughout the day. Jesus had this. Prayerful relationship. With his heavenly father. And that's because. As Jesus tells us in the gospels. He tells us that he is one with the father. He is one with his father.  
[ 25 : 51 ] He says. In John 10. I and the father. Are one. The father is in me. And I am in the father. As the father knows me. So I know. The father.

He says in John 14. If you have seen me. You have seen the father. And so as God's only begotten son. Jesus had this wonderful relationship. With his father. He was co-eternal with his father. Co-equal with his father. Face to face. With his father. He's the eternally begotten son. The only begotten of the father. Full of grace. And truth. And you know what I love about scripture. Is that when you look at. Who our father is. Our father. Our prayerful father. That is revealed to us. As a holy father. And a righteous father. A good, good father. A gracious father. He's a.

[ 26 : 44 ] He's the father of truth. He's the father of mercies. He's the father of light. In whom there is no variableness. Neither shadow of turning. He is as Isaiah says.

Thou art our father. And we are the clay. We are the dust. You're the potter. We are the work. Of your hands. And it's because of his. Personal. And prayerful relationship. With his father. You see Jesus. Praying. Always in prayer. But particularly. He's praying on the cross. Remember when Jesus. Prayed on the cross. He had these seven sayings. And the first. Began with a prayer. And the last. Ended with a prayer. And you know. Even there. Jesus. He's giving us. An example. That we should.

Follow. We would do well. To follow the example. Of Jesus. Because Jesus. You remember. He prayed. For his enemies. Father. Forgive them. For they know not. What they do.

[ 27 : 42 ] But not only that. Jesus. He entrusted. His life. And he entrusted. His death. Into the hands. Of his father. He entrusted. His life.

And his death. Into the hands. Of his heavenly father. Praying. Father. Into your hands. I commit. My spirit. And you know.

I always find it amazing. That when. John. Would have been there. At the cross. When he looked. At the cruel cross. Of Calvary. When he heard Jesus. Still praying. To his heavenly father. Still. Having communion. With his father. All he could say was. All John. Could say was. Behold. What manner. Of love. The father.

Hath bestowed upon us. That we should be called. The children. Of God. That's the love. The father. Has bestowed upon us.

[ 28 : 35 ] That we should be called. The children. Of God. And it's amazing. That when we become. The children of God. Through faith. In Jesus Christ. We enter into a relationship.

With our heavenly father. And when we enter. Into that relationship. We not only receive. The spirit of adoption. Where we're brought. Into the family. Of God. Brought in.

To have brothers. And sisters. In Christ. And Jesus. As our elder brother. And God. As our heavenly father. We not only receive. That spirit of adoption. Where we can cry.

Abba. Father. But as children of God. We're called. To pray. I think it's so important. As children of God. We're called. To pray. To our heavenly father.

As a family. We're called. To have family worship. Not just in our home. But when we meet together. And I. I think this is so important.

[ 29 : 30 ] Because. I think it's so sad. I think it's so sad. To see so few. Of God's children. Gathering together. To pray. At the pray meeting.

During the week. When it should be our priority. We are family. It's family worship. We're called. To pray. To our heavenly father.

Jesus. Is his son. He's our elder brother. We are brothers. And sisters in Christ. It's family worship. And the amazing thing is. Jesus has even taught us. And told us.

How to pray. That when we pray. How are we to pray? We're to address. And acknowledge God. As our. Not my.

But our father. It's a family prayer. Our father. Which art. In heaven. In fact. That's why we pray. The Lord's prayer. Each Lord's day.

[ 30 : 26 ] Because it's a family prayer. We're a church family. We're a congregational family. And as God's. Children. We're to praise God. As our father.

But we're also to pray. To God. We're to acknowledge. And address God. As our father. Which art. In heaven. What a relationship to have.

And to have a relationship. With God. As our. Father. And so whatever your experience. Of father's day. Whether it's happy for you.

Or heartbreaking. Remember that you have a father. In heaven. A father in heaven. Who loves you. Who wants to look after you. Who longs.

For you to speak to him. You have a father in heaven. Who's personal with you. He makes promises to you. He's paternal towards you. He's providing.

[ 31 : 28 ] In every way. He's a providing father. He's a prayerful father. He hears what you're saying. He knows what you need. He's so caring.

So compassionate. He has such a concern towards you. He's a good. Good. Father. And as we pray each Lord's day. He's our father.

Which art. In heaven. But you know. When you pray. The Lord's prayer. Father. Do you mean. What you are praying.

Are you praying it. Genuinely. Sincerely. Saying he is. Our. Father. He's my father. And my God. And that's the great question. David is leaving us with. As a father shows compassion. To his children. So the Lord shows compassion. To those. Who fear him. Is the Lord your father.

[ 32 : 27 ] Do you know. The Lord. As your father. On this. Father's day. Can you call. The Lord. Your father. And pray.

As a family. Our father. Which art. In heaven. May the Lord bless. These thoughts to us. Let us pray. Our father in heaven.

May give thanks. For this wonderful. Relationship. That we're able to experience. And even enjoy. To know that we have access. To the father. Through thy son. The Lord Jesus.

And it is a wonder to us. That he is. Our advocate. He is our mediator. He is the one who intercedes. For us. But even more wonderful. To know that. In all our cares.

And all our concerns. That we are able to call. And even to cry. Abba father. To know that we have a father. In heaven. Who looks after us. Who longs to hear from us.

[ 33 : 29 ] And who longs for us. To speak to him. Lord bless us together. Then we pray. Help us to know thee. As our father. Help us to follow Jesus. Thy son. Help us to be part of this.

Family of God. And to be able to confess. With John. When we look at the cross. Of Christ. To say. Behold. What manner of love. The father hath bestowed upon us.

That we should be called. The children of God. Do us good. Then we pray. Go before us. We ask. For we ask it in Jesus name. And for his sake.

Amen. Amen. Well we're going to bring our service. To a conclusion. This morning. We're going to sing. The words of that psalm.

Psalm 103. Psalm 103. We're singing. From verse 13. Down to the verse. Mark 17. That's in the Scottish Psalter.

[ 34 : 28 ] Page 370. Psalm 103. And verse 13. Such pity as a father hath. Unto his children dear. Like pity shows the Lord to such.

As worship him in fear. For he remembers we are dust. And he our frame well knows. Frail man his days are like the grass. As flower in field he grows.

And down to the verse marked 17. Of Psalm 103. To God's praise. Such pity as a father hath. Such pity as a father hath. Unto his children dear. Like pity shows the Lord to such.

As worship him in fear. For he remembers we are dust.

[ 35 : 45 ] For he remembers we are dust. But he our frame well knows. Frail man his days are like the grass.

As flood then field he grows. For he remembers we are dust. But over the wind doth pass.

And in our wind is gone. And of the place where once it was.

It shall no more be known. But unto them.

But unto them. The blood do fear. God's mercy never ends.

[ 37 : 12 ] And to their children's children still.

His righteousness extends. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The love of God the Father. And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Be with you all. Now and  
forevermore. Amen. Amen.